



GRANTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

Conservation Commission Grants Program Newsletter



No. 24

November 2000

Grant Policy Advisory Committee

The Grant Policy Advisory Committee will meet by telephone conference call on November 14, 2000 to consider the following questions:

1. Should the Commission raise the maximum amount of cost share per operation from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for dairies?
2. Should the Commission increase the maximum cost share rate for practices installed at any dairy operation to 75 percent?
3. Should the Commission allow cost sharing on practices contained in an unapproved Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP) under certain conditions?
4. Should the Commission make available a part of its CREP financial assistance money as an advance to landowners who need it to install a riparian buffer prior to receipt of their federal Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)?

These are substantial issues, but not overly controversial, which is why we chose to meet by conference phone call.

If you want to convey your thoughts on these issues to a member of the Committee, their names, affiliations, and phone numbers are listed below:

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

- Butch Ogden, Chair, Cowlitz CD, 360-274-4345
- Richard Zones, Secretary-Treasurer, South Douglas CD, 509-745-8351

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

- Rob Buchert, District Manager, Palouse CD, 509-332-4101
- Lisa Bucy, District Coordinator, Clark CD, 360-883-1987 ext. 110
- Laurie Crowe, Dairy Nutrient Management Coordinator, South Yakima CD, 509-837-7911
- Brad Johnson, District Manager, Asotin Co. CD, 509-758-8012

- David Nunn, CREP Coordinator, So. Yakima CD, 509-829-3003
- Geoff Reed, District Coordinator, King CD, 206-764-3410 ext. 5 + ext. 103

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- Jackie Reid, Committee chair, 360-456-8834

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION FOLK

- Karen Beatty, Department of Ecology, 360-407-6566
- Pat McGregor, WACD Executive Director, 253-473-4999
- Ron Shavlik, NRCS Field Support Leader (invited), 360-704-7780

Feel free to call committee members from your region, or who work in your area of interest, and let them know how you feel about these issues. The committee members represent you and need to know your opinion.

The recommendations of the committee will be presented to the Commission at its November 29, 2000 meeting for action.

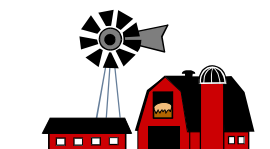
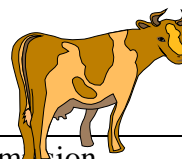
If you have questions about the Grants Policy Advisory Committee or its operation, call Bob Bottman at 360-407-6204.

So, what does all this mean to me?

The Commission still has \$937,000 of uncommitted cost share money for dairy districts.

If the Policy Advisory Committee recommends the changes listed above, and the Commission concurs, the revised cost sharing policy will allow additional financial assistance for dairy operators to get practices on-the-ground.

If you work in a dairy district, I invite you to look into how much more money your cooperators could qualify for.



Washington State Conservation Commission

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We have a new CREP Coordinator!

And it is...(drum roll)...Debbie Becker! You probably know Debbie from her work as Executive Director of the Washington State Dairy Federation for the past nine years.

Debbie will start as CREP Coordinator for the Commission on November 22nd. She will also be at the WACD Annual Meeting. Take a minute or two to look her up in Spokane and say "hi."

Status of Commission budget request

The budget staff at the Office of Financial Management has gone through the Commission's budget request with a fine-tooth comb, and has forwarded their recommendation to the Governor's Office.

The Governor will make his budget request known by December 20th at the latest. Stay tuned.

WACD Annual Meeting

You all should have received your registration paperwork for the WACD Annual Meeting, November 26-29, 2000 in Spokane.

As always, it will be an interesting and exciting three days. On the agenda are a total of 51 resolutions, some of which deal with the challenging issues of elections and public disclosure. If you attend the convention, you'll be assured of great discussion and scintillating debate. You'll also witness the stirrings of change in conservation districts in Washington State. And as we all know, change is good. Right?

WACD Annual Meeting expenses

We all know that convention expenses are high, especially the meals. But the benefits of district supervisors and staff attending the WACD Annual Meeting far outweigh the once-a-year costs. This is the Commission's philosophy in a nutshell.

Commission grants staff have been asked whether convention meals and lodging costs are grant-eligible. The answer to this question is "yes."

Even though the meal costs at convention are above the usual per diem cap, they are grant eligible expenses (those listed on the WACD registration form). This is in line with state travel guidelines for reimbursement for meals with meetings.

Basically, these guidelines allow reimbursement for the cost of meals when three conditions are met: 1) they are an integral part of the meeting (including conventions), 2) the purpose of the meeting is to conduct official business or provide training to

supervisors or employees, and 3) attendance at the convention is approved in writing by the district chair, or authorized designee, in advance.

Approvals can be made a part of district minutes, or can be made at the time of the initial request to attend the convention.

If you have questions on reimbursement of travel costs, call Cheryl at 360-407-6205, Ann Holleman at 360-407-6114, or Debbie Schenck at 360-407-6212.

Okey, dokey!

The term "O.K." comes from the Greek words "Ola Kala" which means roughly "all good". In Greek, if something is all right you can say "Ola Kala". From this, we get the letters O.K. and we use it of course to say that something is fine.

Nostradamus has nothing on him

In 1898, British author Morgan Robertson wrote a fictional story called "Futility," about an 800-foot long ocean liner, the largest the world has ever seen. The ship held more than 3,000 passengers, and was said to be the grandest, most luxurious, and foolproof ever. In his story, it was deemed unsinkable. The story goes on to tell of the ship's maiden voyage from Southampton, England to New York City in April. Traveling at up to 25 knots, the ship sails for a few days, hits an iceberg about 1,500 miles from its destination on a cold night, and sinks. Inadequately stocked with lifeboats, nearly all of its passengers drown. Robertson called his fictional ship the *Titan*.

The real *Titanic* sank on April 15, 1912, en route to New York City from Southampton, England, during her maiden voyage. The vessel sank with a loss of an estimated 1,500 lives at a point about 400 miles south of Newfoundland.

Morgan Robertson's eerily prophetic story was published 14 years earlier!

